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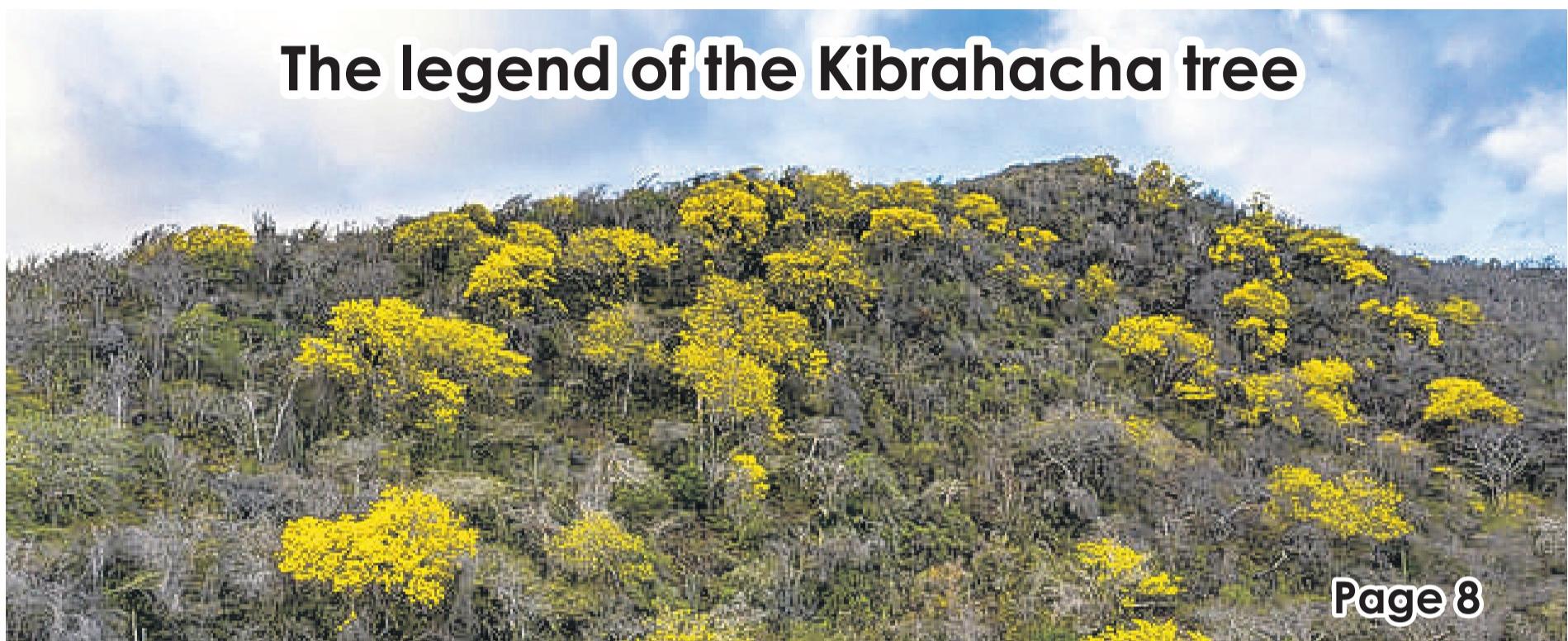
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Most U.S. adults say Trump's military parade is not a good use of money, a new AP-NORC poll finds

By MEG KINNARD and LIN-LEY SANDERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Washington prepares for a military parade this weekend to honor the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, a new survey finds that U.S. adults are more likely to approve than disapprove of President Donald Trump's decision to hold the festivities, which officials have said will cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars.

But about 6 in 10 Americans also say that Saturday's parade is "not a good use" of government money, including the vast majority of people, 78%, who neither approve nor disapprove of the parade overall, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey found that about 4 in 10 U.S. adults "somewhat" or "strongly" approve of the parade, while about 3 in 10 "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove. About 3 in 10 neither approve nor disapprove.

Carol Sue Quillen, 69, of Live Oak, Florida, said she sees the parade as a way to honor the country's service members, who she said include her late father an Air Force test pilot killed on a helicopter training mission when she was a baby and



The White House is seen beyond a stage ahead of an upcoming military parade commemorating the Army's 250th anniversary and coinciding with Donald Trump's 79th birthday, Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in Washington

Associated Press

her son-in-law, who serves in the special forces.

"I don't necessarily think we appreciate our military as much as we should," said Quillen, a retiree who described herself as a Trump supporter although she said the Republican president's personality "can be a bit overwhelming."

"All branches should be celebrated for what they do," Quillen said. "That just boosts morale."

Democrats and independents say parade is not good use of money

Featuring hundreds of mili-

tary vehicles and aircraft and thousands of soldiers, the celebration on Saturday, which also happens to be Trump's birthday, has grown extensively in scope and size since Army planners started working on a festival two years ago to mark the military branch's anniversary. Besides a military parade which Trump had unsuccessfully pushed for during his first term there will also be concerts, fireworks, NFL players, fitness competitions and displays all over the National Mall for daylong festivities.

The Army expects as many as 200,000 people could attend and says putting on the celebration will cost an estimated \$25 million to \$45 million.

Most Republicans, around two-thirds, approve of the event, and a similar share sees it as a good use of money, but about one-third say it's not a good use of government funds.

Democrats overwhelmingly say the parade is not a good use of public money, as do independents. And while about half of Democrats disapprove of

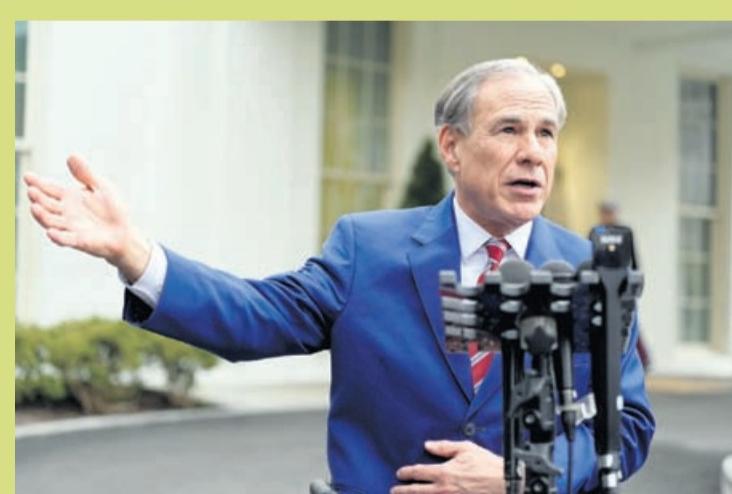
the parade, about half of independents neither approve nor disapprove, suggesting that they may have heard less about it or have less strong feelings about it generally.

Matt Wheeler, 40, called the display "extremely wasteful" and "a bit of a performance" that "just sends a bad message" in terms of the overt military display.

"The only other time I can think about this, it's been in old throwbacks to the USSR or things you see out of North Korea," said Wheeler, who works in nonprofit fundraising in Los Angeles and described himself as a lifelong Democrat. "It's a direction this administration is inclined to move in that isn't in line with what I thought our country really was."

Few think military spending is too low

Sam Walters, 45, who works in restaurants in Fort Worth, Texas, described himself as a former conservative who now has more libertarian leanings. Walters, who voted for Trump in last year's election, said he appreciated that Trump had "really kind of stuck to his guns" concerning many of the issues on which he campaigned, assessing his second term so far as "a pretty good job." □



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House, Feb. 5, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Thursday he has ordered the deployment of more

than 5,000 Texas National Guard troops, along with more than 2,000 state police, to help local law enforcement manage protests against President

Gov. Abbott deploys over 5,000 Texas National Guard troops ahead of planned 'No Kings' protests

Donald Trump and the ongoing federal immigration raids.

Abbott's announcement did not detail where the troops were sent, but some were seen at a protest Wednesday night in downtown San Antonio near the Alamo. That protest drew hundreds of demonstrators but did not erupt into violence.

More protests are planned on Saturday in San Antonio and across Texas in cities such as Houston, Austin

and Dallas as part of the national "No Kings" movement.

Protests earlier this week in Austin and Dallas led to brief clashes with police who used chemical irritants to disperse the crowds. About a dozen were arrested.

"Peaceful protests are part of the fabric of our nation, but Texas will not tolerate the lawlessness we have seen in Los Angeles in response to President Donald Trump's enforce-

ment of immigration law," Abbott said. "Anyone engaging in acts of violence or damaging property will be arrested and held accountable to the full extent of the law."

The Republican Texas governor's move stands in sharp contrast to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, who has publicly clashed with Trump over his decision to deploy National Guard and Marine personnel in Los Angeles. □

Trump administration tells immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela they have to leave

By GISELA SALOMON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security said Thursday that it has begun notifying hundreds of thousands of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans that their temporary permission to live and work in the United States has been revoked and that they should leave the country.

The termination notices are being sent by email to people who entered the country under the humanitarian parole program for the four countries, officials said.

Since October 2022, about 532,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela were allowed to enter the U.S. under the program created by the Biden administration. They arrived with financial sponsors and were given two-year permits to live and work in the U.S.

DHS said that the letters informed people that both their temporary legal status and their work permit was revoked "effective immediately."



Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem holds a news conference regarding the recent protests in Los Angeles on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Associated Press

It encouraged any person living illegally in the U.S. to leave using a mobile application called CBP Home and said that individuals will receive travel assistance and \$1,000 upon arrival at their home country. The department did not provide details on how the U.S. government will find or contact the people once

they leave or how they will receive the money. Trump promised during his presidential campaign to end what he called the "broad abuse" of humanitarian parole, a long-standing legal tool presidents have used to allow people from countries where there's war or political instability to enter and temporarily live in the U.S.

Trump promised to deport millions of people who are in the U.S. illegally, and as president he has been also ending legal pathways created for immigrants to come to the U.S. and to stay and work. It "is a deeply destabilizing decision," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president of Global Refugee, a nonprofit organization that supports refugees and migrants entering the U.S. □

Officers sue to compel Congress to install a Jan. 6 riot memorial at Capitol

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two of the police officers who defended the U.S. Capitol from a mob of Trump supporters filed a lawsuit on Thursday seeking to compel Congress to follow one of its own laws and install a memorial to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. The officers claim the failure to install the memorial plaque on the Capitol reflects an effort by President Donald Trump and his congressional allies to rewrite the history of the Jan. 6 riot. "Even those who recognized the violence of the day eventually partnered with the man who both inspired and minimized it," the suit says. More than 100 law enforcement officers were injured in the attack. Hundreds of

people were convicted of Capitol riot-related crimes, but Trump erased all of the cases in a sweeping act of clemency on his first day back in the White House. In 2022, Congress passed a law directing the Architect of the Capitol to install a memorial honoring the officers who tried to hold off the mob. The deadline for installing it passed roughly two years ago. In April, Architect of the Capitol Thomas Austin told a House subcommittee that House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, had not instructed him to install the plaque. The speaker is responsible for any modifications to the House side of the Capitol, Austin noted. Spokespeople for Austin's office and Johnson didn't immediately respond to

emails seeking comment on the lawsuit.

The lawsuit's plaintiffs Metropolitan Police Department officer Daniel Hodges and former Capitol Police officer Harry Dunn have been outspoken critics of Republicans' revisionist history of Jan. 6. "Both men live with psychic injuries from that day, compounded by their government's refusal to recognize their service," the suit says.

Hodges was nearly crushed in a door frame during a battle for control of a tunnel entrance. Rioters ripped a gas mask off his face and dislodged his helmet.

Dunn left the Capitol police before running an unsuccessful campaign for a House seat in Maryland last year, losing in the Democratic primary. Dunn, who is

Black, has said rioters yelled racial slurs at him during the siege. Hodges and Dunn joined Rep. Jamie Raskin in the Maryland Democrat's office on Thursday to discuss the memorial and

their lawsuit. Raskin said he placed a poster replica of the plaque outside his office and is encouraging his colleagues to do the same until Johnson complies with the law. □



House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., departs after President Donald Trump signed a bill blocking California's rule banning the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035, at an event in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Washington. Associated Press

Photos show accuser in NYC crypto kidnapping leaving house freely, defense lawyers say

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who says he was kidnapped by two crypto investors for his Bitcoin was seen in photos and videos "laughing and smiling" and moving about Manhattan freely during the days he claimed he was tortured in captivity, lawyers for the two suspects said in court Wednesday.

William Duplessie, 32, and John Woeltz, 37, pleaded not guilty and were ordered held in custody until their next court date on July 15. Prosecutors argue the man was clearly in distress because he ran barefoot and bloodied to the nearest police officer after escaping 17 days in captivity.

However, Duplessie's lawyer said Wednesday that videos show the accuser participating in group sex and smoking crack cocaine while "laughing and smiling the whole time." In other photos, Sam Talkin said, the accuser is seen visiting an eyeglass store with one of the defendants and could have fled or sought help at any time. "The story that he is selling doesn't make sense," Talkin said in Manhattan criminal court as the defendants were formally arraigned.

Woeltz's lawyer, Wayne Gosnell, added that witnesses told him the accuser came and went as he pleased from the upscale town house where he says he was held — going to church, clubs and



William Duplessie, charged with kidnapping and torture for trying to steal a man's Bitcoin password, appears in Manhattan Criminal court, Friday, May 30, 2025.

Associated Press

dinners.

The accuser, a 28-year-old Italian national, has not been named by officials. Prosecutors say the defendants have known him personally for years.

In court Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Sarah Khan argued that someone who supports the defendants was selectively leaking videos to present a counternarrative of the events.

In reality, she said, the accuser was constantly watched, was not permitted to leave the house without being guarded and was subjected to violence, including being pistol-whipped and cut with

a small chain saw.

The defendants also took photos of the man in various poses and acts to create the impression that he was not being held against his will, Khan said.

Police searching the town house found evidence corroborating his story, including a loaded pistol, chain saw and other instruments purportedly used to torture him. They also located photographs, including one where the defendants point a gun to the accuser's head, another where the accuser is tied to a wheelchair, and still another showing the accuser being set on fire.

When prodded by the judge, Khan explained that the man didn't actually sustain any burn injuries because the defendants would quickly douse the flames, sometimes by urinating on him.

What's more, she said, prosecutors believe this is not the first time the defendants have held a person against their will. They are aware of two other potential victims in two other locations, according to Khan.

Lawyers for the two men, meanwhile, sought their release on \$1 million bail and home confinement with their parents. They rejected suggestions from prosecutors

that their clients could flee the country.

"He's so far from a flight risk here. He's ready to fight this case. He's not going anywhere," Talkin said of Duplessie.

The two appeared handcuffed in prison uniforms and didn't speak in court other than to formally enter their pleas. They are charged with kidnapping, assault, unlawful imprisonment and criminal possession of a weapon and face up to life in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors say that on May 6, the two men lured the victim to a town house in Manhattan's posh SoHo neighborhood by threatening to kill his family.

The man said the two investors tormented him with electrical wires, forced him to smoke from a crack pipe and at one point dangled him from a staircase five stories high.

The man said he eventually agreed to hand over his computer password, then managed to flee as his captors went to retrieve the device.

Khan said Wednesday that last month's kidnapping was at least the third instance in which the two had convinced the man to meet them in person, only to threaten him and take his electronic devices in order to obtain his cryptocurrency. To date, Khan said, he hasn't received his money or electronic devices back. □



The exterior of a building in Fort Campbell, Ky., is seen on March 30, 2023.

Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — One soldier was killed

and another was injured Wednesday evening in

One soldier dies, another is injured in helicopter training incident at Fort Campbell

what was called a helicopter training incident at Fort Campbell, the Army post said.

The soldiers' names were not immediately released and the incident is under investigation.

Fort Campbell officials said Thursday that the incident occurred around 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Fort Campbell training area. They did not provide any other details.

The injured soldier was

taken to Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and is in stable condition, it said. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear was among those offering condolences to the family of the soldier who died.

"No matter how it happens, when we lose someone who has committed to serving our country, I know it hurts that family but it should hurt us all," the Democratic governor said Thursday.

Kentucky state Sen. Craig

Richardson, whose western Kentucky district includes the Fort Campbell area, said the soldier's death was heartbreaking.

"This tragedy is a solemn reminder that the dangers our military faces are not limited to distant battlefields," the Republican lawmaker said.

"The call to serve brings risks at home, in training, preparation, and quiet readiness."

The sprawling Fort Campbell post straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line. □

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Brazil's Supreme Court justices agree to make social media companies liable for user content

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and ELÉONORE HUGHES

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The majority of justices on Brazil's Supreme Court have agreed to make social media companies liable for illegal postings by their users, in a landmark case for Latin America with implications for U.S. relations.

Brazil's top court decided to rule on two different cases to reach an understanding on how to deal with social media companies as reports of fraud, child pornography and violence among teenagers become rampant online. Critics warn such measures could threaten free speech as platforms preemptively remove content that could be problematic.

Gilmar Mendes on Wednesday became the sixth of the court's 11 justices to vote to open a path for companies



Minister Luiz Fux, left, Google Brazil's rapporteur, talks with Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberto Barroso, during the court's resumption of social media regulation cases regarding online disinformation, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Associated Press

like Meta, X and Microsoft to be sued and pay fines

for content published by their users. Voting is ongoing but a simple majority is

all that is needed for the

measure to pass.

The ruling will come after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned of possible visa restrictions against foreign officials allegedly involved in censoring American citizens. One such official reportedly is Brazilian Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has taken measures against social media outlets he deemed to have not complied with Brazilian law.

The only dissenting Brazilian justice so far is André Mendonça and his vote was made public last week. The court is yet to decide how such regulations will be enacted.

Mendonça said free speech on social media is key for the publication of information that "holds powerful public institutions to account, including governments, political elites and digital platforms." □

Dutch center-left parties unite to challenge the right in a historic merger

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Two center-left

Dutch political parties agreed Thursday to a formal merger, just months away from a general election where they will seek to turn the political tide in the Netherlands away from right-wing populism.

Members of the Labor Party and Green Left both voted overwhelmingly in favor of the move to form a single new party. The parties have been working together in parliament for years. Now they will go to the polls as a single entity known by its Dutch name,

Groen Links-PvdA. A new party with a new name will follow next year, the parties said after the vote.

"This is a historic moment. This step shows that we, as parties, believe in the power of cooperation, because we can achieve so much more together than apart," the chair of the Labor Party, Esther-Mirjam Sent, said in a statement. Green Left chair, Katinika Eikelenboom, added that her party's members "choose with full conviction for cooperation and renewal. We are building a broad, green and social people's party that is ready for the future."

The Oct. 29 election for all 150 seats in the lower house of the Dutch parliament was triggered when right-wing anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders pulled his ministers out of the four-party ruling coalition in a dispute over the pace of reforms to implement tough new measures to rein in migration.

The remaining three parties remain in power in a caretaker capacity under Prime Minister Dick Schoof until a new government is formed. The Labor Party is led in parliament by former European Commission climate chief Frans Timmermans, a former Dutch

foreign minister. The two center-left parties currently trail Wilders' Party for Freedom in Dutch polling. □



Frans Timmermans, of the center-left two party bloc of Labor Party and Green Left, looks on in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, June 3, 2025, after far-right leader Geert Wilders pulled his party out of the ruling four-party coalition in dispute over a crackdown on migration.

Associated Press

At least 240 people, including those on the ground, killed in the Air India crash, official says

By AJIT SOLANKI and RAJESH ROY
Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India (AP)

— One passenger survived the crash of an Air India plane bound for London that killed at least 240 people Thursday in Ahmedabad, one of India's worst airline disasters in decades, officials said.

The death toll includes medical students who were in a college hostel when the plane hit the building shortly after takeoff, said Vidhi Chaudhary, a top state police officer in the northwestern city.

"Most of the bodies have been charred beyond recognition," she said.

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed that a single passenger survived the crash and said he met him at the hospital. A doctor said he had examined the survivor, whom he identified as Vishwashkumar Ramesh.

"He was disoriented with multiple injuries all over his body," Dr. Dhaval Gameti told The Associated Press. "But he seems to be out of danger."

Black smoke billowed from the site where the plane crashed and burst into flames near the airport in Ahmedabad, a city of more than 5 million and the capital of Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.

Firefighters doused the smoking wreckage of the plane, which would have been fully loaded with fuel shortly after takeoff, and adjacent multistory buildings with water.

Charred bodies lay on the ground and parts of the fuselage were scattered around the site. Indian army teams were assisting civil authorities to clear debris and help treat the injured.

A video on social media showed the jet slowly descending as if it were landing. As soon as it disappeared out of view behind rows of houses, a giant fireball filled the sky. The AP was able to verify the video



This photo shared by India's Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) shows debris of a plane that crashed in the northwestern Indian city of Ahmedabad, in Gujarat state, Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Associated Press

by matching up the flight path of the plane from the runway with the crash site and the nearby residential area.

At the crash site, the tail cone of the aircraft with damaged stabilizer fins still attached to it was lodged near the top of one of the buildings.

In a social media post, Modi called the crash "heart-breaking beyond words" and said "my thoughts are with everyone affected."

Sambit Patra, a lawmaker from Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, said Gujarat's former chief minister, Vijay Rupani, was among the dead.

Divyansh Singh, vice president of the Federation of All India Medical Association, said at least five students from the medical college were killed on the ground and 50 others were injured.

Singh said some of them were in critical condition and many people are "feared buried in the debris."

Air India said the flight bound for London Gatwick Airport was carrying 242 passengers and crew, with 169 Indians, 53 Britons,

seven Portuguese and one Canadian aboard. The Boeing 787-8 crashed into a residential area called Meghani Nagar five minutes after taking off at 1:38 p.m. (08:08 GMT), Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, the director general of the directorate of civil aviation, told AP.

The first crash of a Boeing 787

This is the first crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, according to the Aviation Safety Network database. Boeing said it was "working to gather more information."

India's aviation regulatory body said the aircraft gave a mayday call, signaling an emergency, but then did not respond to the calls made by the airport traffic control.

Aviation consultant John M. Cox, the CEO of Safety Operating Systems, told the AP from Los Angeles that while the first images of the crash were poor, it appeared the aircraft had its nose up and was not climbing, which is one of the things that investigators would look at.

"At this point, it's very, very early; we don't know a whole lot," he said. "But the 787 has very extensive flight

data monitoring the parameters on the flight data recorder are in the thousands so once we get that recorder, they'll be able to know pretty quickly what happened."

The wide-body, twin-engine aircraft was introduced in 2009, and more than 1,000 have been delivered to dozens of airlines, according to the flightradar24 website.

Air India's chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, said that at the moment "our primary focus is on supporting all the affected people and their families."

UK promises support

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said his government was in constant contact with Indian authorities and encouraged loved ones of passengers on the Air India flight to contact the foreign office.

"Our hearts and our thoughts are absolutely with the friends and families of all those affected who are going to be absolutely devastated by this awful news," Starmer said.

British Cabinet minister Lucy Powell said the government will provide "all the support that it can" to those affect-

ed by the crash.

"This is an unfolding story, and it will undoubtedly be causing a huge amount of worry and concern to the many, many families and communities here," she told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

Britain has very close ties with India. There were nearly 1.9 million people in the country of Indian descent, according to the 2021 U.K. census.

Condolences also poured in from King Charles III, who said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "desperately shocked" by the crash.

"Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations," he said in a statement.

Previous air disasters in India
The last major passenger plane crash in India was in 2020, when an Air India Express Boeing-737 skidded off a hilltop runway in southern India, killing 21 people. The worst air disaster in India was on Nov. 12, 1996, when a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight collided midair with a Kazakhstan Airlines Flight near Charki Dadri in Haryana state, killing all 349 on board the two planes.

The crash comes days before the opening of the Paris Air Show, a major aviation expo where Boeing and European rival Airbus will showcase their aircraft and battle for jet orders from airline customers.

Boeing has been in recovery mode for more than six years after Lion Air Flight 610, a Boeing 737 Max 8, plunged into the Java Sea off the coast of Indonesia minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board. Five months later, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, a Boeing 737 Max 8, crashed after takeoff from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, killing 157 passengers and crew members.

Shares of Boeing Co. tumbled nearly 9% before trading opened in the U.S. □

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Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “pan bati”

(Oranjestad)—If you’re ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

Ingredients:

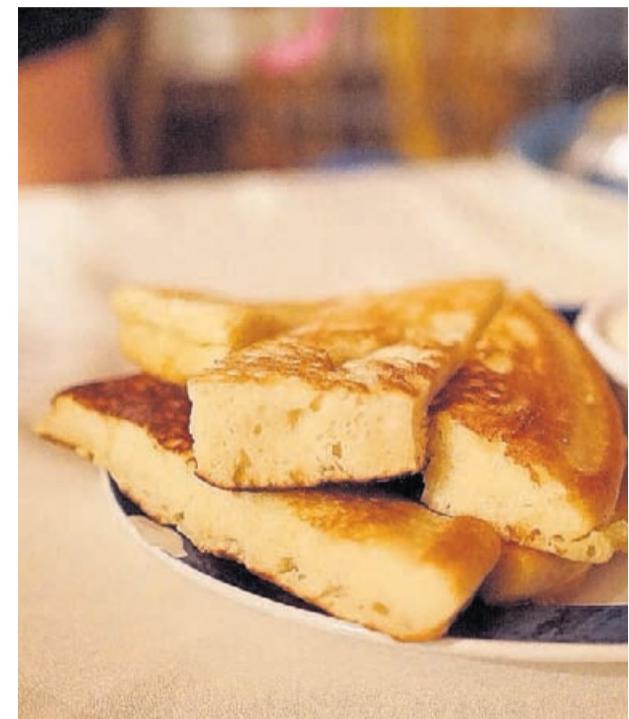
2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
(we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children

play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area
Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree



(Oranjestad)— As the climate begins to dry up here, the Kibrahacha is ready to bloom. Known locally for its bright, yellow flowers, this special tree only blooms for three to four days only. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard

wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamento: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three to four days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The

Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Boo)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudaweche, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted no time and went to go fetch Kudaweche. Upon telling Kudaweche that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudaweche was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudaweche, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudaweche, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

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Cas di Torto



ORANJESTAD - Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The

few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century.

Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and para grass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white colour and helps to protect against the weather. On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the



roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would

be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coastline near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island

was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever

spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive meth-



ods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to

obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



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Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now



(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito

Nicolaas states in his article Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.



Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works. The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil re-

finery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rood Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rood Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West Punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekki-chi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first waves of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Stone

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23 Pull

24 Book myth

5 Plug jacket bit

6 Laundry Bad thing

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41 Fragrant neckwear

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35 36 37

38 39 40 41

42 43 44

45

6-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

WZZE VYEWNGLD SZNGQ BIZN

GPOGIMGLSG, FLE F UZD ZB

D R F D S Z N G Q B I Z N X F E

VYEWNGLD. — HMUU IZWGIQ
Cryptoquote: KNOWING WHAT'S
RIGHT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH UNLESS YOU DO
WHAT'S RIGHT. — TEDDY ROOSEVELT

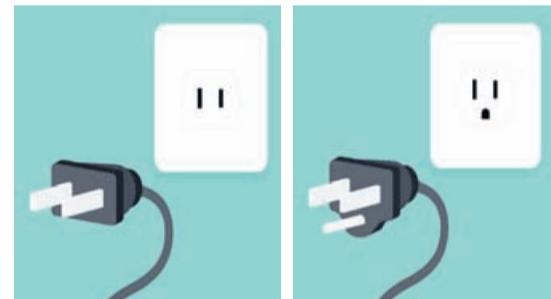


Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - 27 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E - 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C 1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C 1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	C 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

EPA says power plant carbon emissions aren't dangerous. We asked 30 scientists: Here's what they say



The Gibson Power Plant operates Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Princeton, Ind.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday proposed a new ruling that heat-trapping carbon gas "emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants do not contribute significantly to dangerous air pollution." The Associated Press asked 30 different scientists, experts in climate, health and economics, about the scientific reality behind this proposal. Nineteen of them responded, all saying that the proposal was scientifically wrong and many of them called it disinformation. Here's what eight of them said.

"This is the scientific equivalent to saying that smoking doesn't cause lung cancer," said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of

the tech firm Stripe and the temperature monitoring group Berkeley Earth. "The relationship between CO₂ emissions and global temperatures has been well established since the late 1800s, and coal burning is the single biggest driver of global CO₂ emissions, followed by oil and gas. It is utterly nonsensical to say that carbon emissions from power plants do not contribute significantly to climate change."

"It's about as valid as saying that arsenic is not a dangerous substance to consume," said University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann.

"The world is round, the sun rises in the east, coal- and gas-fired power plants contribute significantly to climate change, and climate change increases the risk of heat waves, cat-

astrophic storms, infectious diseases, and many other health threats. These are indisputable facts," said Dr. Howard Frumkin, former director of the National Center for Environmental Health and a retired public health professor at the University of Washington. Climate economist R. Daniel Bressler of Columbia University, said: "We can use tools from climate economics, including the mortality cost of carbon and the social cost of carbon, to estimate the climate impacts of these emissions. For instance, in my past work, I found that adding just one year's worth of emissions from an average-sized coal-fired plant in the U.S. causes 904 expected temperature-related deaths and over \$1 billion in total climate damages." University of Arizona climate scientist Kathy Jacobs said: "Their statement is in direct conflict with

evidence that has been presented by thousands of scientists from almost 200 countries for decades. "It's basic chemistry that burning coal and natural gas releases carbon dioxide and it's basic physics that CO₂ warms the planet. We've known these simple facts since the mid-19th century," said Oregon State's Phil Mote. □



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Willie Nelson keeps living the life he loves at 92. 'I'm not through with it yet'

By ANDREW DALTON

AP Entertainment Writer

Willie Nelson's 90th birthday celebration at the Hollywood Bowl could have been mistaken for a retirement party.

But two years later at 92, he's working as much as ever. Not that retirement would look much different. The life he loves is making music with his friends, even after outliving so many dear ones.

Nelson will be on the road again with Bob Dylan when the Outlaw Music Festival resumes for the second leg of its 10th year starting on June 20 in Clarkston, Michigan

Asked if he'd ever like his life to get the feature film treatment that Dylan did last year with "A Complete Unknown," Nelson said, "I've heard some talk about it. But I'm not through with it yet."

Nelson spoke to The Associated Press in a phone interview from Hawaii's Oahu.

"Bob's a good friend," Nelson said.

"And I'll be glad to let him headline."

The tour is one part of a loaded year. It'll lead right up to the 40th anniversary of Farm Aid in September.



Musician Willie Nelson performing ahead of event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at a rally in Houston, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024.

Associated Press

This spring, Nelson released his 77th studio album. And he's added a new THC tonic, Willie's Remedy, to his wide world of weed products.

An all-Crowell album

Nelson has always loved singing the songs of his friends as much as if not more than the ones he writes himself. In 1979, he released "Willie Nelson Sings Kristofferson," a full album of the work of his friend Kris

Kristofferson, who died last year.

He has similar love for the songs of his friend Rodney Crowell. Nelson has long performed Crowell's "Til I Gain Control Again," which he called "one of the best country songs that I think I've ever heard." Now he's released a whole album of Crowell tunes, "Oh What a Beautiful World."

"So far he hasn't written one that I don't like," Nel-

son said.

The album comes on the 50th anniversary of "Red Headed Stranger," the album that many consider Nelson's masterpiece. A breakthrough for him at age 42, it took him from respected journeyman to beloved superstar.

Nelson said he's already begun work on album number 78, but declines to share its direction.

Willie's Family band, old

and new, still with no set list

As Nelson returns to the road, the only surviving member of the classic lineup of his Family band is Mickey Raphael, 73, whose harmonica has duetted for decades with the Willie warble.

Bassist Bee Spears died in 2011. Guitarist and backup singer Jody Payne died in 2013. Drummer Paul English died in 2020. And Nelson's sister Bobbie Nelson, his only sibling and his piano player, died in 2022.

But the band he takes on the road now is just as familial in its own way. It often includes his sons Lukas and Micah. English's brother Billy plays the drums. The son of Payne and singer Sammi Smith, Waylon Payne, plays guitar.

They collectively keep up with Nelson's wants and whims on stage. One thing the live show never includes is a set list. He refuses to use them. Band members and sound guys, and lighting guys have to stay on their toes and be ready for anything.

"I'd rather play it off the top of my head, because I can read the crowd pretty good," Nelson said. "They jump in there." □

A Grammy category is created for album covers just as Sabrina Carpenter's takes the spotlight

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Recording Academy has



Sabrina Carpenter poses in the press room with the award for best pop solo performance, and best pop vocal album during the 67th annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 2, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

tweaked some of its rules for the 2026 Grammy Awards, including carving out a stand-alone category for best album cover a day after Sabrina Carpenter sparked considerable discourse unveiling what is believed to be the cover for her next album.

The academy on Thursday announced that the best recording package and the best boxed or special limited edition package categories will be combined into the best recording package category, with best album cover spun out on its own. The last Grammy for best recording package went to "Brat," the Charli XCX album whose

distinctive cover was immediately embraced by pop culture and meme creators.

"The Academy's top priority is to represent the music people that we serve each year," Harvey Mason Jr., CEO of the Recording Academy said in a statement. "That entails listening carefully to our members to make sure our rules and guidelines reflect today's music and allow us to accurately recognize as many deserving creators as possible." Carpenter revealed the title and release date for her new album, "Man's Best Friend," on Wednesday. The image shows Carpenter, dressed in a black

dress and high heels, kneeling on the ground in a dog-like pose while an unseen person pulls her by the hair. On social media, some fans said the image was demeaning while others argued it was satirical.

The album would be eligible for the new category if she releases "Man's Best Friend" on Aug. 29, as promised. The Grammy eligibility period closes the next day.

Other Grammy changes include the creation of a best traditional country album category, while the existing best country album category has been renamed best contemporary country album. □

Pacers aren't celebrating, Thunder aren't panicking as sides reset for Game 4 of the NBA Finals

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers aren't celebrating. The Oklahoma City Thunder aren't panicking. The NBA Finals scoreboard is what it is: Pacers 2, Thunder 1 going into Game 4 of the best-of-seven title series on Friday night. Everybody can count to four, and everybody can see that Indiana is in a better position right now than Oklahoma City.

But the Pacers know if they were to partake in such thinking, that would be dangerous.

"There's nothing to get excited about right now," Indiana guard Tyrese Haliburton said. "We're still a long way away."

An even-keeled approach, for certain. The Thunder are going about business the same way.

"I just think we stay pretty emotionally even in all of the different experiences," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "You really see that when we win. I think if you're going to get high on the wins, then the natural opposite of that is to get low on the losses. This team doesn't really swing



Indiana Pacers forward Obi Toppin (1) dunks over Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort (5) during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals basketball series, Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

violently between those two things. Never has."

Indiana grabbed control of the series on Wednesday night in a 116-107 win, a game in which the Pacers' bench led by Benedict Mathurin's 27 points in 22 minutes and T.J. McConnell's 10 points, five assists and five steals in 15 minutes outscored Oklahoma City's reserves 49-18.

The Thunder starters were more than fine in Game 3: Oklahoma City opened the game with a 15-6 run, then started the third quarter with the starters all on the floor with an 8-0 burst. Add up those 7 minutes of play, and it was Thunder 23, Pacers 6. Add up the other 41 minutes of the game, and it was Pacers 110, Thunder 84.

"It's got to be a killer edge to beat these guys," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "We're going to be an underdog in every game in this series. ... It's a daunting challenge. Anything less than a total grit mindset, we just don't have a chance."

If Oklahoma City finds a way Friday, it goes home with a 2-2 series tie and two

of the final three games of the series set to be played in its building. A loss, and it's 3-1 — the sort of hole that few teams in NBA history have escaped.

"I think just the competitive greatness for this team has to be at an all-time high," Thunder guard Alex Caruso said. "To be able to go on the road and win a game is a difficult thing in the playoffs, but especially staring 3-1 down in the face. You got to really get your mind right and get ready for the preparation that it's going to take to go out there and compete for 48 minutes and get the win."

Turner update

Myles Turner, who had five blocks for Indiana in Game 3, including two against Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren with about 2 minutes left first a 3-pointer and then a 6-footer on the same possession is dealing with an illness.

Turner was with the Pacers for film on Thursday and then was sent home. It seems like Indiana expects that he will play in Game 4. Bounceback Thunder

Indiana hasn't lost back-to-back games in three months. □

Kodai Senga leaves with hamstring strain as Mets hang on for 4-3 win to sweep Nats

By JERRY BEACH
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kodai Senga threw 5 2/3 scoreless innings Thursday before leaving with a hamstring strain in the New York Mets' 4-3 win over the Washington Nationals that completed a three-game sweep.

Senga (7-3) allowed one hit and one walk before getting hurt while making a leaping grab of Pete Alonso's high throw on CJ Abrams' grounder between first and second. Senga touched the bag with his right foot on the way down but stumbled upon landing and reached for the back of

his right leg. He hopped a couple of steps before tumbling to the ground. After being surrounded by a trainer, his interpreter, manager Carlos Mendoza and teammates, Senga walked off the field under his own power. He lowered his major league-leading ERA to 1.47, but will be placed on the injured list.

Jeff McNeil stayed hot with a three-run homer in the first for the Mets, who have won six straight to improve to an MLB-best 45-24.

Brandon Nimmo homered off the right field foul pole in the fifth.

The Nationals snapped a 22-inning scoreless streak by rallying for three runs in

the ninth, when Luis García Jr. and Josh Bell hit RBI singles and García scored on a wild pitch before Edwin Díaz got José Tena and Keibert Ruiz to ground out to earn his 15th save. Washington's Michael Soroka (3-4) gave up all four runs and struck out five in five innings.

Key moment

Díaz needed just two pitches to retire Tena and Ruiz following his run-scoring wild pitch.

Key stat

McNeil was 4-of-11 with five RBIs during the series and is batting .316 with four homers and 10 RBIs this month.

Up next

The Mets continue a six-game homestand Friday when RHP Clay Holmes (7-3, 2.95 ERA) starts for the Mets in the opener of a

three-game series against RHP Taj Bradley (4-5, 4.58 ERA) and the Tampa Bay Rays. □



New York Mets pitcher Kodai Senga reacts after an apparent injury during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Thursday, June 12, 2025, in New York.

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U.S. Open players get that sinking feeling, straight down into the rough at brutal Oakmont

By EDDIE PELLS

AP National Writer

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP)— Gary Woodland, the 2019 U.S. Open champion, waved the rules official over. Certainly, a ball buried that deep in the rough had to have embedded into the soft turf below when his off-line drive on the 12th hole landed with a thunk.

No such luck, the official told him. The rough at Oakmont is just deep and thick and hard to escape. Instead of taking a free drop for an embedded ball, Woodland had to replace it where he found it, get out his wedge, take a hack and pray.

That resulted in Woodland's first blemish in a back nine of 6-over 41 at the U.S. Open on Thursday. It turned a promising round that began with three birdies into a 3-over 73 slog.

Woodland's was one of dozens of tales from the

rough gnarly, thick and sometimes downright impossible that make an Open at Oakmont as tough

as they come.

"Even for a guy like me, I can't get out of it some of the times, depending

on the lie," said defending champion Bryson DeChambeau, who makes a living on overpowering

golf courses and gouging out of the thick stuff. "It was tough. It was a brutal test of golf."

DeChambeau was at even par when he nuked his second shot over the green and into the rough in back of the 12th green. The grass opened up his club face on the third and rifled the ball into more rough. He needed two more shots to advance the ball from there to the fringe. He shot 73.

"If you miss the green, you miss it by too much, you then try to play an 8-yard pitch over the rough onto a green that's brick hard running away from you," Scotland's Robert MacIntyre said after his round of even-par 70. "It just feels like every shot is on a knife edge." Punishing the best in the world is exactly how the superintendents at what might be America's toughest golf course planned it.□



Thriston Lawrence, of South Africa, hits from the 18th fairway during the first round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Oakmont, Pa.

Associated Press